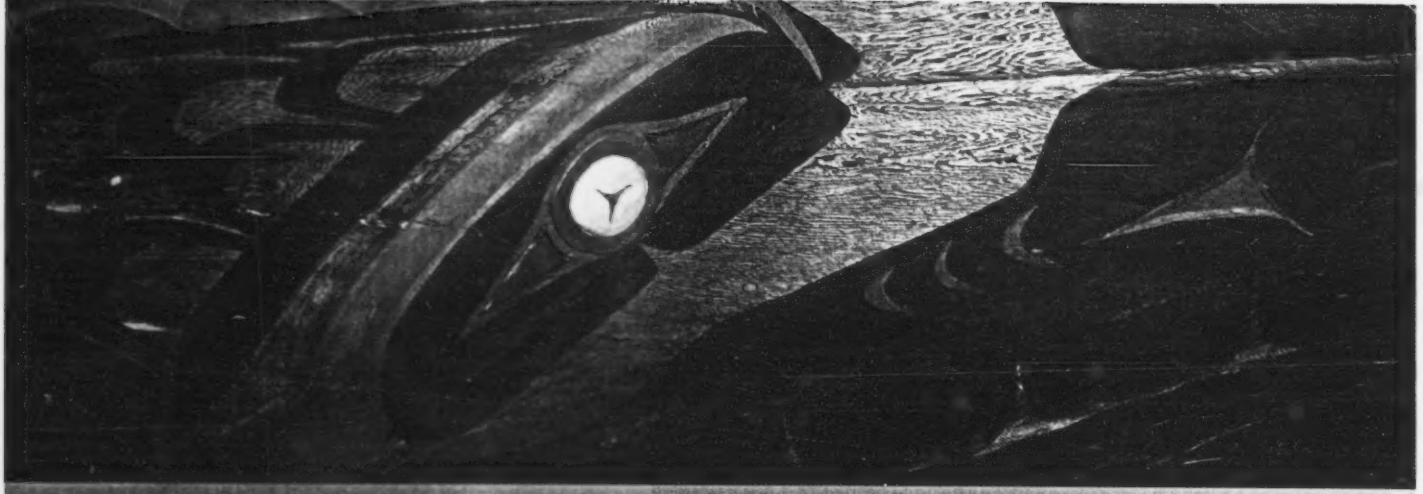

New Relationships with Aboriginal People and Communities in British Columbia

ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS 2010 - 2011

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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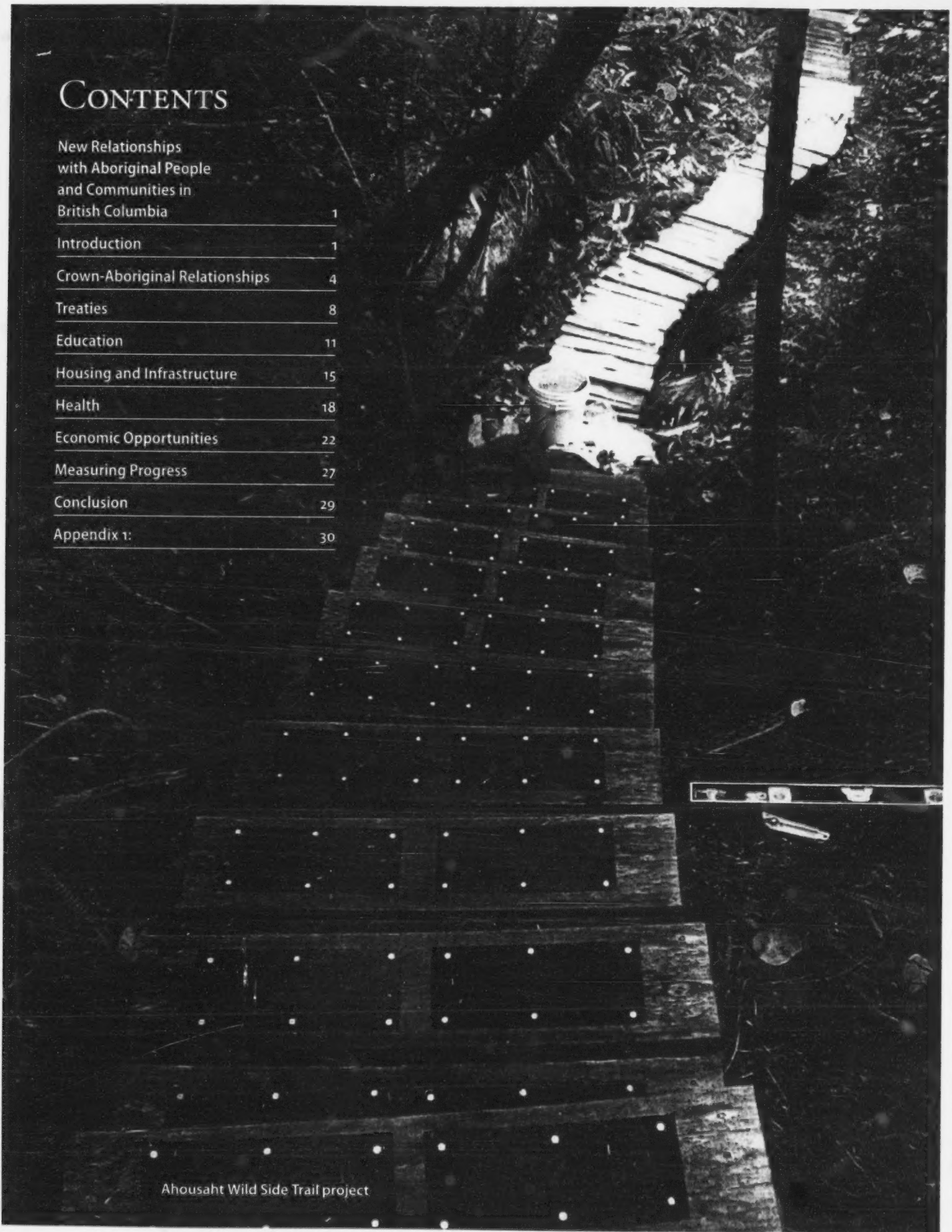

Ahousaht Wild Side Trail project

Introduction

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The report provides a snapshot of progress made toward the goals of the ***New Relationship*** and the commitments under the ***Transformative Change Accord*** and the ***Métis Nation Relationship Accord***. It also includes a summary of key accomplishments since 2005, future strategies, and measures for monitoring progress.

Throughout the report, there are inspiring examples of the ***New Relationship*** in action, such as:

- Aboriginal and community driven governance structures to enable First Nations and Aboriginal communities in leading and designing their own service delivery,
- the effective date of the Maa-nulth Treaty with the five First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty,
- culturally relevant training, curriculum and programs,
- training and videos to build the cultural competency and knowledge of non-Aboriginal people who provide services to and work directly with Aboriginal people,
- employment programs for youth that provide training for job entry while also developing individual self-esteem and confidence,
- initiatives to attract investment in Aboriginal businesses and to further their development.

The report acknowledges the importance of recognizing and celebrating hopeful progress. While much work and many challenges lie ahead, there are many examples of good work on which to build.

The *New Relationship* is a vision for a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights.

In November 2005, the Province, Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council (the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of BC Indian Chiefs) signed the *Transformative Change Accord* (TCA). The purpose of the TCA is to close the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians, reconcile Aboriginal rights and title with those of the Crown, and establish a new relationship based upon mutual respect and reconciliation.

In May 2006, the Province and the Métis Nation British Columbia signed the *Métis Nation Relationship Accord* (MNRA). A formalization of the relationship between the Province and the Métis people of British Columbia, the MNRA identifies mutual goals, including collaborative efforts to close the gap in quality of life between Métis people and other British Columbians.

Government maintains a commitment to measure and report on progress. *Measuring Outcomes* is the companion report to this document and provides quantitative measures of progress on closing the social and economic gaps in Crown–Aboriginal relationships, education, housing and infrastructure, health, and economic opportunities.

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What's in a Name?

For as long as people can remember, in all nations and cultures of the world, names have held potency and power. This is as true today as it was thousands of years ago. There are many place names in British Columbia that honour the rich history of Aboriginal people and their culture; however, when Europeans arrived in this province, many Aboriginal names were ignored or anglicized.

The New Relationship is built on the tenets of respect, recognition and reconciliation. These three pillars provided the foundation for the provincial government's 2009 commitment to restore the name of Haida Gwaii, meaning Islands of the People, to the Queen Charlotte Islands. In June 2010, hundreds witnessed an unprecedented ceremony in Old Massett where the people of the Haida Nation officially returned the name "Queen Charlotte Islands" to the Province in a traditional bentwood box. Local school children received the first official globes marking their birth place as Haida Gwaii, symbolizing the restoration of their history to future generations.

Only a month later, at the other end of the province, a joyful ceremony at the Songhees waterfront in Victoria celebrated the official adoption of the name Salish Sea as an umbrella name for the waters of the Strait of Georgia, Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca which recognizes the importance of these waters to the Coast Salish people. Representatives of the Coast Salish Nations joined British Columbia's Lieutenant-Governor Steven Point and guests to commit themselves to the protection and stewardship of the eco-systems that have sustained the Coast Salish people for thousands of years.

The two events recognize British Columbia's commitment to reconciliation and the unique history and contributions of the Haida and Coast Salish peoples.

The Haida Gwaii renaming ceremony, June 2010

Crown-Aboriginal Relationships

In 2010-11, important actions were taken that demonstrate progress to reconcile Aboriginal rights and title, to recognize Aboriginal jurisdiction over the planning and delivery of services for children and families, and to foster greater understanding and knowledge of the histories, languages and cultures of Aboriginal people in British Columbia.

These actions and many others are the result of the collaborative relationships between governments, and among the Province and Aboriginal communities and organizations toward the realization of healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining communities for First Nations (status and non-status; on-reserve and off-reserve), Métis and urban Aboriginal people.

2010/11 Highlights

Treaties & Other Agreements

The treaty process moved forward with:

- *the Maa-nulth Treaty which took effect on April 1, 2011*
- *the Yale First Nation community members ratified their final agreement*
- *the K'ómoks First Nation voted in support of an agreement in principle*
- *For more information on treaty agreements see the Treaty section of the report.*

- The Province and Ktunaxa Nation Council reached a $1.65 million strategic engagement agreement to guide ongoing government-to-government discussions on natural resource decisions.
- The Province and Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) reached a $1.26 million strategic engagement agreement to streamline the referral process on natural resource applications within the traditional territories of five TNG member communities.
- The Province and three Treaty 8 First Nations (Doig River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, and Prophet River First Nation) signed a final agreement, eight collaborative resource management agreements and an amended economic benefits agreement. The agreement package establishes collaborative management processes as well as shared revenues from oil, gas, forestry and mining activities.

Children, Youth & Families

- A **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Métis Nation BC, the Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC, and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) was signed on February 27, 2011.
- MCFD continued to support 15 Indigenous Approaches which involved more than 100 First Nations working on the development and design of child welfare services based on their traditions and culture. **Indigenous Approaches: Grounding Our Directions**, a four-day event held in 2010, provided a forum to share success and community approaches on best practices and strategies on how First Nations and the ministry can work together to advance this work.
- Each of the MCFD service regions has developed a reconciliation process to help implement the **Aboriginal Service Delivery Framework**. In 2010-11, ten reconciliation processes were established based on the **Touchstones of Hope** process or other First Nations community-based reconciliation processes.

Culture and Arts

- The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council (FPHLCC) published the ***2010 Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages.*** The report provides data on the province's First Nations languages, including the number of speakers and community efforts to stem language loss.
- BC Arts Council allocated $465,000 to FPHLCC for the 2010-11 Aboriginal Arts Development Awards.
- With a significant contribution from the Ministry of Advanced Education, a team of First Nations directors working with the Knowledge Network, Bliss Productions and the FPHLCC created **13 short documentaries** on the importance and value of British Columbia's First Nations languages.

Justice and Community Services

- The Corrections Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) invested approximately $1.3 million in the **Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC. The Native Courtworkers Program** has a 38 year history of providing services to Aboriginal people who come into conflict with the law. The program seeks to ensure that Aboriginal people involved in the criminal justice system obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment. This program is located in 28 British Columbia communities and serves 74% of the province's courthouses.
- The Corrections Branch of PSSG invested approximately $1.6 million to 35 locally based **Aboriginal Justice Strategy** Programs. Aboriginal Justice Strategy Programs are supporting community-based justice programs in communities throughout British Columbia to reduce the rates of victimization and incarceration among Aboriginal people and helping the justice system become more responsive to the cultural needs of Aboriginal people and communities.
- In collaboration with the Justice Institute of BC, approximately 100 Aboriginal Justice workers from 36 communities have received training in substance abuse management, domestic violence and group facilitation; 27 Aboriginal justice workers have received training in "The Foundation of Corrections Case Management"; and 100 Aboriginal Justice workers have received training in alternative measures to encourage the use of restorative justice approaches.
- Police Services developed and distributed a training workshop package around the film ***The Spirit Has No Colour*** to all police agencies in the province to promote positive police/Aboriginal relationships.
- The Province partnered with the federal government to build new police facilities in Ahousaht, Fort Ware (Kwadacha) and Klemtu (Kitasoo) First Nations communities to enhance public safety.

The Strategy for the Future

British Columbia remains committed to negotiating and implementing treaties and other lasting agreements as an expression of reconciliation. In the coming year, the Province is looking forward to implementing the reconciliation protocols signed with the Haida and Coastal First Nations, signing the Tla'amin final agreement, and signing up to eight agreements-in-principle. The Province also anticipates concluding three more strategic engagement agreements in 2011-12.

Other important work planned over the next year includes:

- Working together with justice partners, Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders, the Corrections Branch of the Province will work toward the goals in the 2010-14 Strategic Plan.

- Renegotiating the BC/Canada framework agreement for RCMP First Nation community policing services in British Columbia, along with individual community tripartite policing agreements, to ensure that First Nation communities continue to receive policing services that are culturally sensitive and responsive to their particular needs.
- The **BC Arts Council** will continue to ensure Aboriginal representation on its peer-review grants juries, advisory committees and board of directors and increase investment for Aboriginal artists and cultural organizations.
- The Province, the Métis Nation of British Columbia and the Métis Commission will partner to implement a province-wide Métis Strategic Plan for child and family services.
- Plans are underway to achieve goals identified during community reconciliation gatherings held in 2010-11 as part of MCFD's implementation of the Aboriginal Service Delivery Framework.

Master-Apprentice Team Embraces Opportunity to Learn the Nisga'a Language

"I am doing this program to get my language back," says Esther Stewart. "I grew up with it. When we were going to school, we spoke the language and we got hit on the knuckles for talking our language because they didn't know what we were talking about," she says. "I want to get our language back."

The Master-Apprentice Program pairs a fluent First Nations speaker (a "master") with a committed learner (the "apprentice") for 900 hours of complete language immersion over three years. Twelve Master-Apprentice teams representing 11 British Columbia First Nations languages completed the initial three-year pilot program in March of 2010 with enormous success. Ten new teams began in November 2010.

Esther is the master and Edna Nyce is the apprentice for the Nisga'a language team. Although they both live in Vancouver, far from traditional Nisga'a territory, Esther and Edna are committed to practicing their language and culture. They have only recently begun the three-year Master-Apprentice program, but already the two have completed 50 hours of language immersion and are noticing results.

"I'm already using the language way more than I did before, even when I'm not with Esther," says Edna. "And people are starting to notice—my husband, my children, my mom definitely notices. I'm even using it at work."

"People are interested. They'll hear Edna say one word and they'll go 'oh, yeah. I know that one,'" says Esther. "It's like a chain." "It's really exciting," says Edna. "They're inspired and in turn, that inspires me." Edna's main goal for the program is to learn to speak Nisga'a fluently, but in the future, she hopes to create a language-immersion childcare program in Vancouver. As a fully-licensed early childhood educator, she's well suited for the role.

The British Columbia Master-Apprentice Program was created and is administered by the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council. It was made possible with funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the New Relationship Trust.

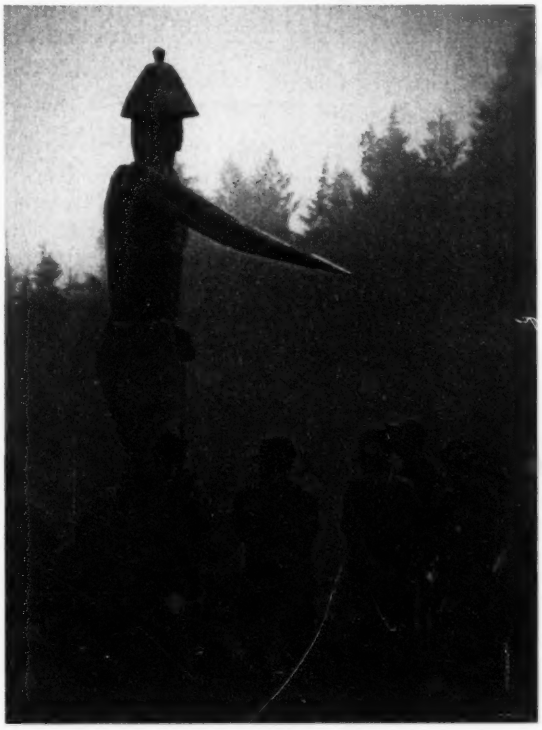
Used with permission from the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council's ***spring/ summer newsletter.***

Ahp-cii-uk: Going the Right Way

How do you build better communities to raise children and create jobs, especially when the social and economic cards are often stacked against you? For the Nuu-chah-nulth communities of Ahousaht, Ehattesaht and Tseshaht, the answer was, and continues to be, Ahp-cii-uk – a community-driven, consensus-based approach with government and business partners to increase capacity, economic opportunity and promise of a better life for their children.

Since 2008, Ahp-cii-uk , a Nuu-chah-nulth word meaning "going the right way"- has partnered with First Nations, businesses, foundations, academic institutions and three levels of government. This unique initiative was established by the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), Health Canada and Synergos Institute.

Ahousaht identified the refurbishment of the Wild Side Trail (an ancient 11-kilometre path which winds through the natural wonders of the southeast corner of Flores Island) as a priority to increase their economic opportunities through tourism and strengthen community pride. Partners provided funding to hire community members to clear and rebuild the trail and hire a manager to work with local tourism operators. Corporate partners provided building material for the trail and funding to create and raise a welcome figure which has become a community icon. Partners also provided prizes for a logo contest which highlighted the artistic ability of the community's youth and paid for t-shirts sporting the new logo.



Welcome figure, Ahousaht Wild Side Trail

In an effort to develop a new multi-purpose lodge and longhouse for their community, Ehattesaht and Ahp-cii-uk corporate partners have worked together to develop related skills and to involve young people as future leaders. This involvement has helped create connections among young people themselves and with their elders. For the littlest community members, a new children's playground is being built with a grant from another corporate partner.

In Tseshaht, a new First Nations Speedwatch program is reducing the number of irresponsible drivers in the community. On the cultural side, Artist Markets showcasing Nuu-chah-nulth talent are increasing in popularity, creating opportunities for artists to showcase their talent and create income.

Ahousaht Wild Side Trail revitalization

Ahp-cii-uk has been funded primarily by MARR and by Health Canada since 2007. Contributions from business and corporate partners have gone into a Community Action Fund and are available as seed funding for community projects which are decided on by community members, by consensus, and then developed with all the partners.

Evaluations of Ahp-cii-uk have identified the approach as a promising practice that has had a significant positive effect in communities, and on corporate partners, in a remarkably short time period. Ahp-cii-uk is interested in working with other communities and partners and has created ***A Handbook for Creating Lasting Change in First Nation Communities*** which is available at **www.WeavingRelationships.org** .

Ahp-cii-uk partners include:

- BC Conservation Foundation
- Coulson's Forest Products
- Donner Canadian Foundation
- BC Transmission Corporation
- FortisBC (Terasen Gas)
- ACCESS
- ICBC
- Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program
- TD Canada Trust
- Royal Roads University
- Tom Lee Music
- MediaNet
- Tim Hortons

Treaties

Treaties are a formal expression of reconciliation and a positive tool for building capacity and stimulating community economies. These negotiated agreements clearly define rights and responsibilities of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments including land ownership, governance, wildlife and environmental management, financial benefits and taxation.

In 2010-11, three significant milestones were reached with First Nations in the treaty process:

The Maa-nulth Treaty:

- Took effect on April 1, 2011.
- Includes five First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty (Huu-ay-aht, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, Yuułu?il?ath and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations) on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- Includes a 24,550-hectare land package and a $73.1 million capital transfer over ten years distributed among the five Maa-nulth First Nations.

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mary Polak at the Effective Date celebration for the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty

- Creates opportunities in fishing and forestry that will support economic development.
- Sets out terms of governance - each of the Maa-nulth First Nations will have a constitution providing for a government that is democratically elected by and financially accountable to the Maa-nulth communities.

Yale First Nation Final Agreement

- Yale First Nation ratified the final agreement on March 12, 2011.
- Yale approved their constitution on November 20, 2010.
- Will provide a capital transfer of $10.7 million and economic development funding of $2.2 million.
- Provides approximately 1,966 hectares of provincial Crown land and former Indian Reserve lands to be owned in fee simple. This includes ownership of sub-surface resources on or under Yale First Nation land.
- Provides ownership of all forest resources on Yale First Nation land. As a treaty First Nation, the Yale government may make laws respecting forest resources and practices on their land.
- The parties are working together to ratify the treaty.

K'omoks First Nation Agreement in Principle

- K'omoks voted 74% in favour of ratifying their agreement in principle on March 26, 2011.
- Will provide approximately 2,000 hectares of land once a final agreement is signed.

- Will provide a capital transfer of approximately $17.5 million once a final agreement is signed.
- Will provide ownership of forest resources on treaty lands, as well as access to timber on provincial Crown lands for cultural purposes (ie. building canoes, totem poles or longhouses).
- The parties are working together to negotiate a final agreement.

The Strategy for the Future

The Province remains committed to the treaty process and looks forward to the next steps in the ratification process for the Yale First Nation final agreement. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation will continue to work on final agreements with the In-SHUCK-ch, Tla'amin, Yekooche, and Lheidli-T'enneh First Nations.

Maa-nulth Treaty Becomes a Reality

At 12.01 am on April 1, 2011, fireworks lit up the skies above the west coast of Vancouver Island and drumming and singing resonated in the night air as the leaders of the five First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty signed the laws that laid the foundation for their future as self-governing nations. In that auspicious moment, the communities began to celebrate the effective date of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Grand Chief Bert Mack, who was chief of Toquaht Nation for 60 years, speaks to the crowd as the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty celebrate their treaty Effective Date

The formal Effective Date was followed by a special community celebration in Port Alberni, attended by the Chiefs, Elders and community members of the five First Nations - Huu-ay-aht, Uchucklesaht, Toquaht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h and Yuułu?ił?ath **(formerly Ucluelet) - and honoured guests from across British Columbia.**

All the Chiefs of the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty spoke movingly about what this treaty means to them and to future generations, but perhaps the indelible memory of the day was Grand Chief Bert Mack rising out of his wheelchair on the stage, with two of his community's youth at each shoulder. The Grand Chief had led the Toquaht First Nation for more than 60 years before recently entrusting his seat to his daughter Anne. The Grand Chief remarked how, at the start of that tenure as Chief six decades ago, his father charged him with getting a treaty for his people. Now that task has been fulfilled. The Grand Chief's emotional and physical gesture of 'standing for his people' was especially poignant for the young people at the gathering, as the next generation and those tasked with moving their communities forward under treaty.

Many at the event remarked how, one day, the young at this event would tell their own sons, daughters and grandchildren that they were there, the day the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty took control of their future.

There are six stages in the **BC Treaty Commission** process.

- *Stage 1 – Statement of intent to negotiate;*
- *Stage 2 – Readiness to negotiate;*
- *Stage 3 – Negotiation of a framework agreement;*
- *Stage 4 – Negotiation of an Agreement in Principle;*
- *Stage 5 – Negotiation to finalize a treaty;*

  (At this stage, a Final Agreement is being finalized and will turn into a treaty after being signed and formally ratified by the First Nation, Canada, and BC).
- *Stage 6 – Implementation of the treaty. Starts on the effective date.*

Education

Access to a culturally-based education and learning environment is an important element in fostering learner success at all ages. Working with dedicated partners and communities across the province, meaningful steps are being taken. Communities are being supported to deliver culturally relevant early childhood programs specific to local cultures and values. School curricula and resources continue to be developed that reflect and honour the diverse cultures and histories of Aboriginal peoples in the province. Post-secondary institutions continue to create welcoming spaces and services for Aboriginal students.

Through these and many other initiatives, work to close the gap in educational outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners will remain a priority.

2010/11 Highlights

Early Childhood

- **$5 million was reinvested** in the 2010-11 fiscal year to fund approximately 500 proposals focused on community delivery of effective, quality, and culturally appropriate Aboriginal early childhood development services. An additional $1 million was provided in one-time only funding for strengthening and expanding early childhood development programs and services. The newly created First Nations, Urban Aboriginal and Métis Early Childhood Development Steering Committee provided stewardship over funding.
- Early childhood development (ECD) strategic plans have been developed by the **First Nations ECD Council** and the Aboriginal ECD Circle.
- The Province funded the Dollywood Imagination Library program which delivered free books monthly to 436 First Nation and Metis children ages 0-5 primarily in rural and remote areas.

Kindergarten to Grade 12

- Supported school districts and Aboriginal communities as they created, signed and implemented additional Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements around the province, for a total of 51 out of 60 school districts. Three school districts have signed their third agreement, signifying ten years of working together to increase the success of Aboriginal students.
- With the implementation of full day kindergarten, government worked with educators, school districts and band schools to acknowledge the valuable experiences for Aboriginal children in many existing full-day programs. The ministry recommended districts continue to support unique aspects of full-day Aboriginal kindergarten programming, such as language and culture enhancement, as they expand the program to more children.
- Supported the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) in the planning phases for development of a Math 8/9 Teacher Resource Guide and the evaluation process for authentic Aboriginal Pre-K to Grade 7 learning resources.
- Implemented the English 10 and 11 First Peoples curriculum document in September 2010 and the first provincial examination for English 10 First Peoples in January 2011.
- Supported Métis Nation BC (MNBC) in the initial planning phase of the Grade 7 Métis Cross-Curricular Unit Teacher Resource Guide.

- Engaged in discussions with Boards of Education and FNESC to ensure that changes to the education system made by the implementation of Personalized Learning, contribute to Aboriginal student success. Personalized Learning will tailor the public education system to the unique needs and interests of every child.

Post-Secondary

- In September 2010, 87 Aboriginal students received a BC Aboriginal Student Award. In total over $259,000 in awards were made, ranging from $1,000 to $3,500 per award.
- Aboriginal Gathering Places were opened at six public post-secondary institution campuses that provide culturally welcoming spaces for the growing Aboriginal student body in public institutions.
- The University of Victoria received $250,000 for the **LE,NONET project**, which provides culturally relevant supportive programs, community experiences, peer mentoring and financial assistance to Aboriginal learners at the University of Victoria.
- FNESC received $500,000 to support the development of First Nations language teacher education programs.

Job Training and Apprenticeship

- Over $2 million invested in Labour Market Agreement funding to increase trades training opportunities for Aboriginal people through the **Industry Training Authority**. Approximately 350 Aboriginal people received training through these projects.
- The Industry Training Authority continued to implement the ***Aboriginal Trades and Apprenticeship Business Plan.*** Work included increasing communication among stakeholders through activities such as the sponsorship of two regional employer engagement forums and participation in over 50 career fairs.
- In 2010/11 over 800 youth were served through **BladeRunners**, a program that offers training, life skills and employment opportunities for at-risk youth, (over 60% are self-identified Aboriginal people). BladeRunners has a 75% job placement rate and provides its participants with access to job coaches 24/7. It expanded into 13 additional communities and is now delivered in 31 communities throughout the province.
- Up to 600 unemployed Aboriginal people across British Columbia received culturally relevant training for employment through the **Aboriginal Training and Employment Program** (ATEP) funded under the Labour Market Agreement.

Family and Adult Literacy

- The provincial and federal governments co-funded the Embedding Research Project which pairs Literacy BC with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to develop strategies that empower friendship centre staff to boost the literacy levels of the people they serve.

The Strategy for the Future

- The Ministry of Education will review the impact of Education Enhancement Agreements as a system to support Aboriginal learner success, and will network with other regions to share successful strategies. The ministry will continue to work with FNESC for the full implementation of First

Nations education jurisdiction and, through consultation with Aboriginal communities, will work to increase the Aboriginal voice in all aspects of the provincial K-12 school system.

- The Province will continue to invest almost $4 million in Canada/BC Labour Market Agreement funding in the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program. The program will be redesigned based on extensive research and engagement with Aboriginal training service providers and stakeholders, and will continue to deliver job-related training through Aboriginal-controlled organizations around the province.
- The Industry Training Authority will continue to implement the Aboriginal Business Plan with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, focusing on increasing employer engagement as well as enhancing data collection processes and analysis.
- Approximately 1,000 youth are expected to receive training through the BladeRunners program in 2011/12.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education will work collaboratively with a working group of the **BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners** to develop a new Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Policy Framework. This work is being informed by an external evaluation of the 2007 **Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy**.

New Gathering Place in Port Alberni encourages Aboriginal student success

Going on to further education and perhaps leaving home for the first time can be a daunting prospect. Now, Aboriginal students attending North Island College's Port Alberni campus have the comfort of knowing that their chosen school has an Aboriginal Gathering Place where they can go and feel completely at home.

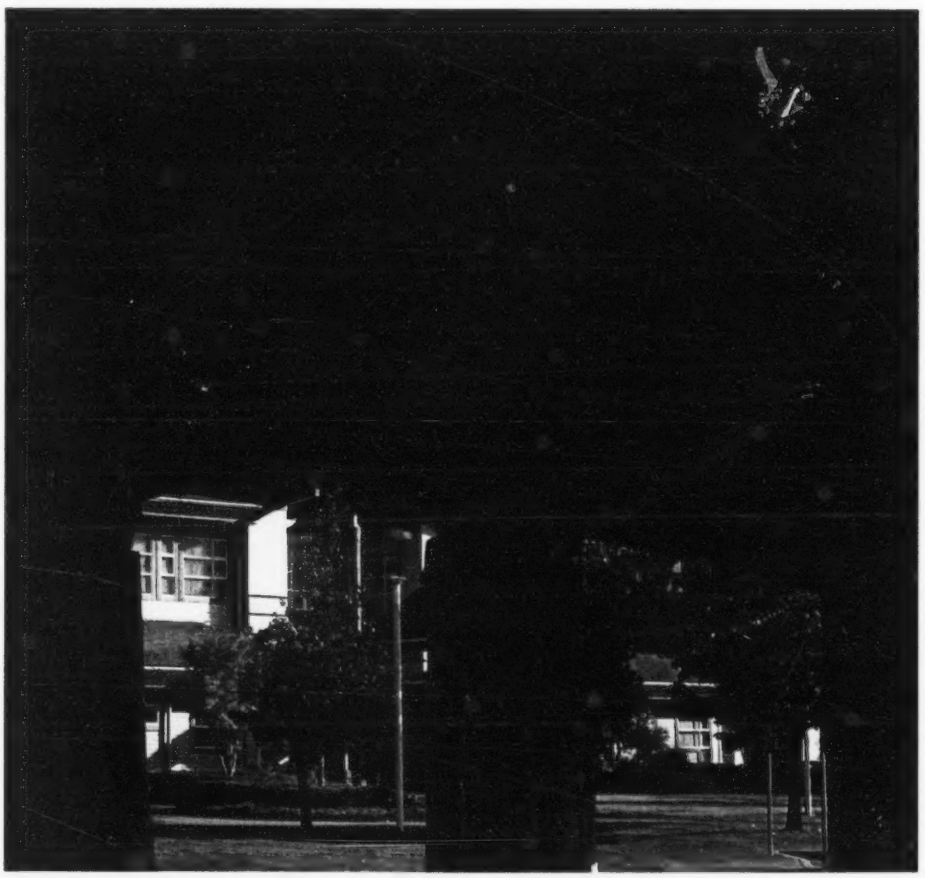
Gathering Places provide a welcoming environment that promotes and preserves Aboriginal culture and history and provides a range of support services to students, such as orientation and Elder-in-residence programs.

Partnership is the watch word to describe the North Island College Gathering Place. It was built with a government investment of $201,000 and is a traditional west-coast style open-sided structure supported by massive cedar logs harvested in partnership with the Hupacasath and Tsehaht First Nations. It will be used for ceremonies, celebrations and classes so that Aboriginal students feel welcomed as true partners and participants with the North Island College community.

The new Gathering Place is a wonderful demonstration of the college's determination to encourage Aboriginal students into further education. "North Island College is committed to improving our ability to support the diverse needs of all of our students, through expanded services and enhanced access," said Jan Lindsay, president of North Island College. "This gathering place is a stunning example of our commitment to support and welcome First Nation students and their families to our campus."

In addition to the Port Alberni campus, the college's Campbell River campus is looking forward to getting its own Aboriginal Gathering Place after British Columbia committed a further $405,000 to the project. It's another demonstration of the increasing recognition that providing a welcoming space for Aboriginal students is a key part to increased education success.

The North Island College Gathering Place is one of six completed in the last year, bringing the total to 13 new and completed Gathering Places across the province.



Housing and Infrastructure

The Province, BC Housing, the **Aboriginal Housing Management Association** (AHMA), and other Aboriginal housing service providers and partners are working together to develop appropriate housing to meet the diverse needs of Aboriginal people and families living off-reserve.

Eagle's Nest in Williams Lake

The Provincial Housing Strategy, ***Housing Matters BC,*** includes a strategic direction to address Aboriginal housing needs. Under this strategy, the Province has developed housing programs for Aboriginal people to meet immediate and long-term housing needs. This includes the management and delivery of affordable, quality housing to urban and rural Aboriginal people by AHMA as the provincial and federal governments transfer authority for social housing to their administration. Opportunities are also being created to link trades training for Aboriginal people with new construction of subsidized housing.

2010/11 Highlights

- More than 1,800 homeless Aboriginal people were provided with housing and supports through the **Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program**, the Homeless Outreach Program, and the Emergency Shelter Program.
- Approximately 242 units of supportive housing have been completed under the **Provincial Homelessness Initiative**, which benefits many homeless Aboriginal people.
- Case planning is being incorporated into the Emergency Shelter Program, Homeless Outreach Program, and Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program to ensure that homeless individuals have access to support services needed to break the cycle of homelessness.
- Administration of 179 social housing units was transferred to AHMA in 2010/11 for a total of 933 units transferred to date.
- Over 50 new units of affordable housing for Aboriginal individuals and families were created under the Aboriginal Housing Initiative:
  - *Official opening of* **Eagle's Nest**, *a centre providing 33 suites to low-income Aboriginal adults in Williams Lake. Through a partnership with the City of Williams Lake, the Province provided a $7.2 million grant.*
  - *Official opening of* **Twin Feathers**, *a centre providing 19 affordable apartments for Aboriginal students, singles and families in Kamloops. Through a partnership with the City of Kamloops, the Province provided a $5.8 million grant.*
- Under the **Independent Living BC program**, a new assisted living development is under construction for elders and seniors in Duncan, providing 50 new affordable apartments to the community.
- In December 2010, **a web-based off-reserve housing tool** was launched as part of the work being done under the 2008 Tripartite First Nations Housing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This online resource was recommended by First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal communities and organizations through province-wide engagement.

- Since 2008, the Province and Health Canada provided $40.8 million to facilitate broadband connectivity and capacity building for First Nations in British Columbia. As of the end of March, 2011, 157 First Nations had access to high-speed Internet services.

The Strategy for the Future

Through BC Housing, the Province will continue to transfer off-reserve Aboriginal Housing units to the Aboriginal Housing Management Association and address Aboriginal housing need through the Aboriginal Housing Initiative and the Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program. The Province will continue to actively work on the First Nations Housing MOU at the technical committee table with the First Nations Leadership Council and the federal government.

Through a process of collaboration with First Nations organizations, the federal government, broader public sector organizations and the private sector, the Province will continue working toward ensuring that all 203 First Nations have affordable broadband access.

Working to empower clients

Before Kimberly Graham sends a homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness person to meet a landlord to view a potential suite, she makes sure they know how to present themselves. "For many people, it can be quite nerve-wracking to meet someone who might be a future landlord. Many don't know how to talk to landlords or know what questions they should ask," said Kim. "I give them tips to look after themselves, and show them available resources along with new skills. Most importantly, I want to empower them as this in turn will build their own self-confidence" said Kim.

Kim is the community outreach coordinator with Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society (VATJSS), a non-profit agency that provides restorative justice, homelessness and outreach prevention services to Aboriginal people within the Lower Mainland. Since 2008, Kim's work has been funded through BC Housing's Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program.

Kim doesn't have to actively look for people needing homes – they find her. "I've been fairly successful in finding places. Vancouver Native Housing has been a great supporter along with a few other housing societies. I also have luck finding landlords by placing ads on the Internet for clients who are computer challenged."

Kim is Aboriginal and feels that trust is developed more easily right at the beginning of her relationships with clients because of that. "I believe it makes a difference and I try to incorporate cultural sensitivity into the way I work with people. With our location at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, we usually have Elders on site who will come and sit with someone. In addition we provide information of other cultural services and events."

Kim also spends a considerable amount of time with each person who walks through her door. For her, the greatest moments are measured by people who come back and tell her how VATJSS Outreach made a difference in their lives. "Some check in two or three times a week; most will let me know how they're doing once a month. They are thankful for having someone listen to them at a time when they felt all alone in the world. They're grateful for knowing there is a place where they can go if they need someone to talk to."

First Nations Connectivity – Blueberry River

The 'Pathways to Technology' program is already making strides across British Columbia. One of the program's success stories is Blueberry River, where the installation of high-speed Internet is changing the way the community does business, education and even entertainment.

Blueberry River is a small First Nations community of just over 400 people. Located 45 minutes north of Fort St. John, situated in British Columbia's oil and gas country, the community has long thrived as a member of Treaty 8 in the province's north. However, the full potential of the region is only being realized now that access to the Internet became available to every home in the community in February of 2011.

Pathways to Technology was able to provide Blueberry River with the latest wireless high-speed broadband technology. By partnering with the Peace Region Internet, the Pathways to Technology project ensured that multiple access points were installed throughout the community including the Administration Office, and set up wireless Internet receivers at no cost for any homes wishing to take advantage of high-speed Internet.

The new Internet services are already allowing people in the community to access resources never before available in their remote location. From online banking to video communications, the opportunities are almost endless with high-speed Internet access. Local school programs now have access to thousands of educational programs and benefits, giving class time a whole new dimension. Blueberry River businesses are benefitting too, by eliminating travel cost and time while expanding their reach through a few clicks of the mouse.

Moving forward, Pathways to Technology will be working with the First Nations Health Council as part of their efforts to create an integrated First Nations clinical telehealth network in British Columbia. The people living in Blueberry River will soon be able to receive expanded services at the community's new health centre, while having the benefit of remote appointments and consultations with specialists rather than travelling hundreds of kilometres.

Since the community was first connected, nearly a quarter of the homes and businesses have signed up for Internet service – just the latest step in Pathways to Technology's goal of connecting all of the First Nations in British Columbia to the world.

Health

The Province, working with the First Nations Leadership Council, the First Nations Health Council, the federal government, and local health authorities remains committed to making progress on the 29+ actions in the **Tripartite First Nations Health Plan**, and improving the health status of Aboriginal people in the province.

Further negotiations and actions were taken in the past year to evolve the envisioned health governance structure for First Nations' direct administrative control over health services to First Nations communities. The ***Basis for a Framework Agreement on First Nations Health Governance*** brings the realization of a BC First Nations Health Authority one step closer.

2010-11 Highlights

Governance

- The ***Basis for a Framework Agreement on Health Governance*** was initialled in July 2010 by the Province, First Nations Health Council and the Government of Canada. The Basis Agreement outlines a staged approach for reaching a new administrative arrangement with Canada and British Columbia, where the funding, programs, services, and staff of the BC Region of First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada, would be transferred to the control of a new First Nations health governing body (currently being referred to as a First Nations Health Authority).
- The Health Actions Implementation Approach (HAIA) is a new approach being applied to the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. HAIA has grouped the Plan's 29+ action items into seven strategic areas with strategy councils formed for each strategic area to ensure decision making in each will occur in a Tripartite manner.
- A **Document of Intent** (DOI) for implementing the health actions from the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan was signed between Fraser Health Authority and the First Nations Health Society in July 2010. The DOI was developed as a means of formalizing and strengthening the relationship between the two parties, and setting out agreed strategic approaches, roles and collaborative responsibilities.

Programs and Services

- As part of the Aboriginal ActNow BC initiative, the Ministry of Health sponsored a minor grant funding program and activities designed to build capacity within Aboriginal communities to promote healthy living in four key areas: increased physical activity; healthy eating; reduction of tobacco misuse; and healthy pregnancies. Programming included community training and a RunWalk program, delivered in partnership with the Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council and SportMedBC.
- **Métis Nation BC** (MNBC) carried forward funds received in 2009/2010 from Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund: Adaptation to 2010/2011. MNBC used the funds to:

- *conduct an environmental scan to determine how effectively Métis people are involved in the Aboriginal programs and services currently offered throughout British Columbia;*
- *hold seven regional workshops to prioritize relevant and appropriate engagement and representation issues and health priorities of Métis Citizens in British Columbia;*
- *assist Chartered Communities to identify available resources and grant processes so each Community can develop sustainable health resources;*
- *assess health programs and services to identify health services available and gauge the effectiveness of programs; and*
- *develop a data matching protocol which will be used in data sharing agreements between the Ministry of Health and associated agencies to facilitate evidence-based decision making in health planning, adaptations and evaluations of programs.*

- $3.7 million in funding was allocated to **Delegated Aboriginal Agencies** (DAA) to support enhanced services they provide to Aboriginal children and families in care. An additional $1 million was provided to delegated agencies to support care costs. There are currently 22 delegated Aboriginal agencies across British Columbia – with seven more in various stages of planning.
- The **Provincial Office for Aboriginal Infant Development** was expanded to include a new advisor position to oversee Aboriginal supported child development programs. These programs provide direct support to Aboriginal children and youth with special needs.
- Through support from the **Aboriginal Training for Employment Program** (ATEP), the Native Education College now offers a **Home Care Assistant Training program**. Such programs support the action item of the TCA: Tripartite First Nations Health Plan that calls for increasing the number of First Nations in health professions.
- The Provincial Health Services Authority **Indigenous Cultural Competency Training** has been made available province wide to approximately 3,500 health authority and Ministry of Health staff.

The Strategy for the Future

The Province, partnering with the First Nations Health Council, the federal government, Métis Nation BC, and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, will continue to take action to improve Aboriginal health outcomes by improving the delivery of health services and promoting prevention measures.

The Province, the First Nations Health Council and the Federal Government are working towards finalizing the legal agreement, ***BC Tripartite Framework Agreement on First Nation Health Governance***. The new arrangement will enable opportunities for innovation and direct partnership between the regional health authorities and the First Nations Health Authority.

The Province will continue to dialogue with the federal government to address inequities that currently exist for First Nations children living on reserve. Other negotiations also continue with the federal government regarding the ongoing implementation of ***Jordan's Principle*** in British Columbia to ensure jurisdictional funding disputes between the Province and the federal government do not interfere with First Nations children's access to services.

The Provincial Health Services Authority Indigenous Cultural Competency Training will be opened up to all employees of the Ministry of Health in 2011-12.

Seabird Island's Aboriginal Practical Nurse Pilot-Program

Seabird Island Health Department has developed an Aboriginal Practical Nurse Pilot-Program that has given 10 students the opportunity to become licensed nurses.

A partnership with Vancouver Community College (VCC) was created to allow the nursing curriculum to be delivered within the Seabird Island community. In what is commonly referred to as a satellite program, the participants are enrolled as VCC students but attend classes at 4 portables that have been transformed into a temporary lab and classroom.

Laureen Duerksen, Aboriginal Practical Nurse Program Coordinator and instructor, talks about the objectives of the program, "The plan was to provide education and successful graduation…there will always be jobs for nurses, every First Nations community requires a nurse."

The 10 students represent 8 different communities from 2 provinces. All of the students relocated to the Seabird Island area to attend the program, which began in February 2010. Tuition is paid for by the students' bands, funding from Fraser Health Authority, SASET, and by bursaries and scholarships.

The program runs as a 3-day in-class school week with 2 days of homework. However, the classroom is open all week so that students can utilize the space if needed. Support services such as meals on wheels and mental wellness are also offered to provide extra help to the students and their families when requested.

One of the key aspects of this program is providing a schedule that works for their students: "Many of our students are parents or grandparents raising grandchildren. It doesn't make sense to start at 8 in the morning because they have to get their kids to school. We have that flexibility; we know it's important for our students to take care of their families."

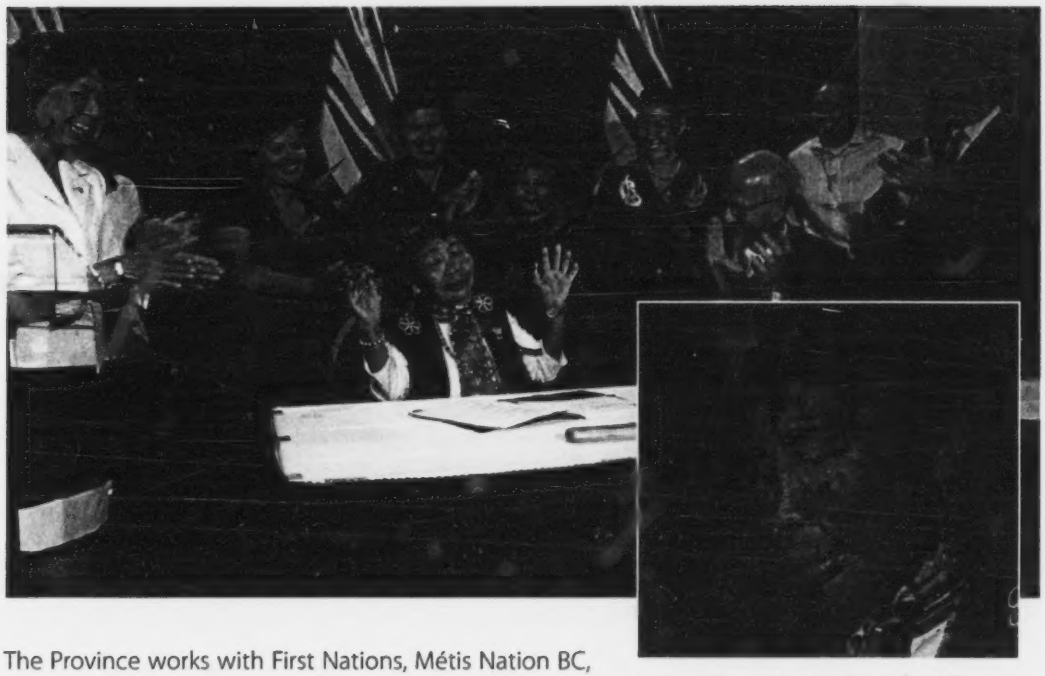
When speaking of unforeseen successes of the program, Duerksen mentions, "We probably have about five [students] wanting to carry on to become Registered Nurses." Following their graduation, the students will need to leave the Seabird Island community to continue with their studies towards becoming a registered nurse; which requires a degree from a university.

The 10 Aboriginal nursing students attended the Fraser Health Aboriginal Health: Year in Review on September 22nd and were introduced as a shining example of the work being done to improve health services for Aboriginal people in the Fraser Region. During this celebration, Diane Miller, Executive Director of Primary Care & Aboriginal Health made a commitment to ensure that all of the nurses in the program would have placements secured in the Fraser Health region to complete their nursing practicums. The class is expected to graduate by August 2011. A second class will be starting in the fall of 2011.

Used with permission from the First Nations Health Council November 2010 Infobulletin.

Students in the Seabird Island Health Department's Aboriginal Practical Nurse Pilot-Program at Vancouver Community College

Economic Opportunities



The Province works with First Nations, Métis Nation BC, Aboriginal organizations and communities to create economic opportunities that are sustainable and will improve the standard of living and well-being of Aboriginal people. Partnerships and relationships are established that help attract investment, share resource revenues, establish inclusive land decision-making processes, help to develop a skilled labour force, and foster equitable access to income supports and services.

In August 2010, the Province of British Columbia and the McLeod Lake Indian Band signed a historic mining revenue-sharing agreement. The agreement is part of the Province's commitment to work with First Nations to implement the goals of both the New Relationship and the Transformative Change Accord by providing financial resources to help the First Nations achieve the objectives identified by their communities.

2010/11 Highlights

Business and Development

- Métis Nation BC began renovations of the school acquired with support from the Province and began delivering programs at the **Métis Skills and Employment Centre**.
- The Province provided resources to help Métis Nation BC implement their economic development strategy.
- The **First Nation Clean Energy Business Fund** was established in July 2010 with an initial amount of $5 million in funding to promote energy self-sufficiency, independent power production and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 18 businesses were honoured at the second **B.C. Aboriginal Business Awards** gala event. The awards honour and celebrate business excellence and represent the growing number of outstanding Aboriginal business leaders in the province.

- **Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC** (AtBC) and the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment continued to lead Canada in developing the Aboriginal cultural tourism sector, with AtBC reporting that tourism revenues increased from approximately $20 million in 2005 to approximately $42 million at December 2010.
- $1.2 million in federal and provincial funding was announced for the **First Nations Forest Sector Technical Support Program** to help expand the number of First Nations bands and businesses involved in forest and wood products industries, and to increase employment within First Nations communities.
- Delivered the **Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training** (BEST) program in ten communities, as well as a pilot in a provincial correctional facility. The BEST program provides Aboriginal people with entrepreneurial skills training to undertake market research, create a business plan, and start their own businesses.
- The Province worked with the Westbank First Nations and Treegroup Development to secure crown land for the redevelopment of Ponderosa Golf Resort in Peachland.

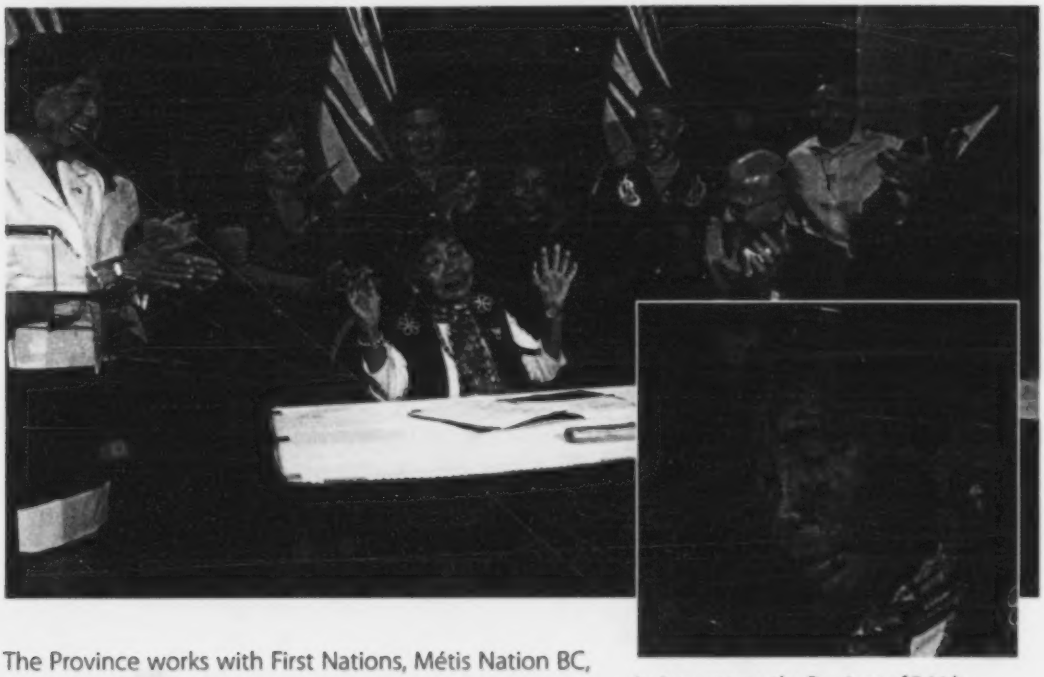
Agreements

- Three economic and community development agreements were signed in 2010-11:
  - *between the Province and the Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation to share mineral tax revenue generated by the New Afton mine.*
  - *between the Province and McLeod Lake Indian Band to share the mineral tax revenue generated by the Mt. Milligan mine project.*
  - *between the Province and the Shuswap Indian Band, providing the Band with a percentage of crown revenue the Province receives from the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort in Golden.*
- Introduced the "Forests and Range (First Nations Woodland Licence) Statutes Act" which will provide for a new direct award forest tenure that is unique to First Nations. The First Nations Woodland Licence provides exclusive right to harvest timber on Crown land, the right to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest products, practice Aboriginal stewardship and protect traditional use practices.
- The direct award of forest tenure opportunities through forestry agreements has improved First Nations capacity in the forest industry sector by offering a total of 59.6 million m3 in forest tenures since 2002. First Nations now hold over 14.6% of the provincial allowable annual harvest in competitive and direct award forest tenures.
- The Haida Nation's Taan Forest Ltd. and BC Timber Sales signed a cooperative management agreement to jointly plan and manage over 270,000 hectares of working forests on Haida Gwaii.
- Recently, the Province replaced 53 expired agreements with the new Forestry Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement that provide First Nations with a percentage of crown revenue from forestry activities occurring directly in their traditional territories.

Job Creation, Income and Employment

- Relationships with **Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy** (ASETS) agreement holders and the **First Nations Social Development Society** have been formally recognized and encouraged through the signing of a memorandum of understanding. This has resulted in the steady increase of ministry-client participation in ASETS programs.

Economic Opportunities



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- Ministry of Social Development signed a protocol agreement with Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, BC Region and the First Nations Social Development Society to help improve and streamline person with disability (PWD) designation processes for clients who are moving on- or off-reserve. The PWD Protocol Agreement will help PWD clients to more easily receive the services that they need and will help to increase the consistency of PWD program delivery across the province.
- The Province developed the new **Employment Program of BC** service delivery model after conducting province-wide consultations and engagement opportunities over the past two years with service providers, community groups and government bodies, including Aboriginal organizations.
- 20% of the projects approved in the **Community Development Trust Job Opportunities Program** went to First Nations representing 66 projects valued at over $13 million. Approximately 649 employment opportunities for First Nations were created.

The Strategy for the Future

Over the next year, the Province anticipates:

- signing new incremental treaty agreements
- signing new economic and community development agreements
- finalizing an agreement under the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act
- offering forest consultation and revenue sharing agreements to First Nations whose existing agreements will expire
- continuing to direct award forestry tenures including the new First Nations Woodland License
- exploring the development of further resource revenue sharing agreements
- developing the new Employment Program of BC to be in place by April 2012
- AtBC implementing further steps in their 2011-12 Action Plan
- working in partnership with the First Nations Social Development Society, the Cowichan First Nation and the Tsawout First Nation to establish a set of Income Assistance data to develop more effective programming for British Columbia First Nations
- continue to implement land tenure components of the memorandum of understanding with the Namgis First Nation pertaining to the Mount Cain Alpine Park near Campbell River

Gas and Groceries, Bannock and Dirt

The second **B.C. Aboriginal Business Awards** in December 2010 again highlighted the wealth of entrepreneurial talent in the Aboriginal business community right across British Columbia. From web design to excavation, retail to catering, the range of the businesses showcased was as diverse as the province itself.

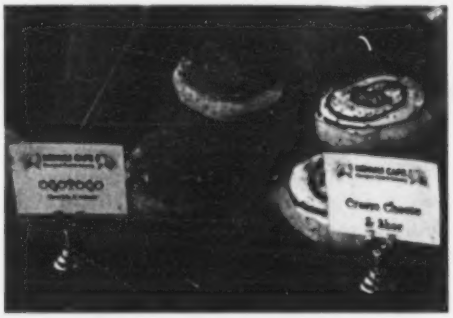
The then minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Barry Penner, was delighted to attend the event and was impressed by the drive and determination of everyone there to succeed and develop their business ideas. "This year's Aboriginal Business Award recipients represent the growing number of outstanding Aboriginal business leaders in British Columbia," he said. "These role models will encourage the next generation of Aboriginal people to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to life."

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in October 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence. Three of the 2010 recipients share their stories.

Kekuli Café Aboriginal Foods and Catering
Kelowna

Don't panic – they have bannock

Sharon Bond has found her niche: The owner of Kekuli Café Aboriginal Foods and Catering is determined to meet Kelowna's need for bannock. Her cafe cooks up about 300 a day: some are topped with cream cheese, sugar and cinnamon or Saskatoon Honey Butter; others find their way into bannock breakfast sandwiches and bannock burgers or get served up with buffalo stew.



Two of the many varieties of bannock sold at Westbank's Kekuli Cafe

Little Kingdom Gas and Grocery
Vernon

How to succeed in business by counting cars

In 1984, when Robert Marchand was thinking about opening a gas station near Vernon, he took a straightforward approach to market research: he sat by the side of the road over three days and counted how many cars passed by. If that approach sounds too simple to be true, consider this: 26 years later, Marchand's Little Kingdom Gas and Grocery is still going strong; not only that, but his business has expanded to include a grocery store, bakery, hardware store and ladies' fashion boutique.

Robert Ellis of Ellis Excavating Ltd.
Nanaimo

Playing in a big sandbox all day

At the age of six, Robert Ellis announced that he was going to be an excavator operator, just like his father. Now 24, Ellis has made good on that promise. He's the proud owner of Ellis Excavating in Nanaimo, the company he founded four years ago. He hasn't lost the sense of fun that first inspired him, describing his job as "like playing in a big sandbox all day." The money's not bad, either: when Ellis started his business, he took out a $250,000 bank loan to buy an excavator. Within three years, the loan was paid off.

Thank you to the BC Achievement Foundation for sharing the stories and videos.

Agreement Returns Forest Revenues to Community

Chief Marvin McClurg of Pacheedaht First Nation receives a $104,000 cheque from Minister Pat Bell as part of the three-year Forestry Agreement

Forestry plays a key role in building a better economic future for the Pacheedaht community. The Pacheedaht community near Port Renfrew celebrated the signing of a three-year Forestry Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA). The agreement gives the First Nation a percentage of revenue from forestry activity in their traditional territory, which will be used to support social and community development programs. In the first year, Pacheedaht received approximately $104,000 under the agreement.

In addition to the FCRSA, the Province approved the transfer of Tree Farm Licence 61 to a partnership between Pacheedaht/Canadian Overseas. Tree Farm Licence 61 covers 20,213 hectares and has an allowable annual cut of 108,500 cubic metres. With this new revenue-sharing forestry agreement and their purchase of Tree Farm Licence 61, Pacheedaht are in an excellent position to benefit as the forest sector is rebounding. According to Chief Marvin McClurg, "This new agreement, in conjunction with our other forestry activities, will allow us to focus our energies and revenue on moving our Community Plan forward for the benefit of people today and future generations".

Measuring Progress

Measuring and tracking progress on closing social and economic gaps between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population is a responsibility shared across government. Some of the indicators and reports being used by ministries and Crown agencies for reporting are highlighted below. Many are also included in the cross-government report, ***Measuring Outcomes.***

Crown-Aboriginal Relationships

- the number of treaties and agreements that build incremental progress towards reconciliation
- initiatives that develop capacity and governance capabilities for First Nation governments and Aboriginal organizations
- an annual survey of British Columbia residents is conducted to assess public awareness of the diversity of First Nations cultures, as well as awareness of Métis as a distinct Aboriginal population in the province
- First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council **annual reports**
- Ministry of Children and Family Development **public performance measures**

Education

Evidence of success includes using measures determined through dialogue and collaboration with local Aboriginal communities, maintaining continuous improvement, scores on tests and in courses related to reading, writing and numeracy, and the rate of post-secondary participation. The key indicator of success will be to reduce the discrepancy in high school graduation rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners by 2015.

Local boards of education and Aboriginal community partners continue to work together to develop and implement Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements. These agreements help to define what evidence of success looks like and provide ways to improve educational success for Aboriginal youth.

Specific measures include:

- BC Certificate of Graduation
- scores on the Foundation Skills Assessment
- post-secondary participation credential achievement rate
- Student Transition Project: ***Education Achievements for Aboriginal Students in B.C.***
- Ministry of Advanced Education: ***Post Secondary Central Data Warehouse Standards Reports***

Housing and Infrastructure

- core housing need
- percentage of households reporting major repairs
- number of First Nations with broadband facilities
- Number of long-term drinking water advisories on reserve
- **BC Housing annual reports**

Health

- life expectancy at birth
- mortality rates
- youth suicide rates
- infant mortality rates
- prevalence of diabetes
- incidence of childhood obesity
- the number of practising certified First Nations health care professionals
- other key indicators include First Nations defined wellness indicators, the measurement of new and improved health governance, management, and service delivery relationships at all levels
- Ministry of Children and Family Development **public performance measures**
- ***Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report on the Health and Well-Being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia***

Economic Opportunities

- unemployment rate
- median employment income
- self-employment status
- possession of apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
- number of initiatives supported by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation that provide economic opportunities to Aboriginal peoples

Ministries also report on specific measures and indicators in their **service plans**.

Conclusion

The ***2010-11 Annual Report on Progress*** highlights initiatives enabled through partnerships between the Province, First Nations, Métis, and Aboriginal people and organizations to improve social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people across the province.

Work will continue to strengthen the reconciliation process through the signing of new agreements and treaties, supporting the priorities of Aboriginal people to govern and design services for their diverse communities and needs, and initiating economic development and employment strategies, among many other important actions. Through sustained commitment, the Province, First Nations, Métis, and Aboriginal people will work together to establish healing relationships and build sustainable communities for Aboriginal people and all British Columbians.

To learn about the Province of British Columbia's New Relationship with First Nations and Aboriginal people visit www.newrelationship.gov.bc.ca

To find out more about the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation visit www.gov.bc.ca/arr

To obtain further information from specific ministries, access the main Government of British Columbia web page: http://www.gov.bc.ca/.

A Young Métis dancer performs during the opening ceremonies, watched by Chief Leonard Andrew, Lil'wat Nation and Chief Gibby Jacob, Squamish Nation.

APPENDIX 1:

Cornerstones to Progress – Accomplishments Since 2005

Crown-Aboriginal Relationships

2009: The ***Recognition and Reconciliation Protocol on First Nations Children, Youth and Families*** was signed by the Province, the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs committing the parties to an inclusive process to establish a common vision for First Nations child and family wellness in British Columbia in addition to other commitments laid out in the protocol.

2009: The subsequent Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (NNFFA) was finalised by the Province, Canada and the Nisga'a Nation (the "Parties") on April 1, 2009. The NNFFA is a tripartite funding arrangement to enable the provision of agreed-upon public programs and services to Nisga'a citizens and, where applicable, non- Nisga'a occupants of Nisga'a Lands. This renewed NNFFA provides the Nisga'a Nation with increased funding and greater flexibility in the delivery of the agreed-upon programs and services.

2006: The Province signed the ***Métis Nation Relationship Accord,*** agreeing to work with the Métis Nation BC (MNBC) to strengthen relationships and to improve the quality of life for Métis people. The Province provides annual operational funding matched by the federal government to MNBC for government-to-government dialogue.

2006: The ***New Relationship Trust Act*** established the not-for-profit ***New Relationship Trust*** (NRT). The Province provided $100 million to the NRT to support First Nations in capacity building efforts.

2006: Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC) was established with government support to unify the diverse groups of Aboriginal youth in British Columbia to address issues of common concern. In 2009-10, the UAYC and the Province signed a **memorandum of understanding** to promote a positive relationship between Aboriginal youth and the Province.

2005: The Province provided significant financial resources to support the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) Society to implement their **Protocol with VANOC**, the federal government and other partners. The protocol ensured "unprecedented Aboriginal participation" in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games by ensuring First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Canada had opportunities to participate. It marked the first time that indigenous peoples had been recognized as full partners in an Olympic and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee.

2005: The Province signed the ***Transformative Change Accord***, committing to work together to close the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians.

2005: The ***New Relationship*** document was created, proposing new processes and structures for the Province and First Nations to work together on decisions regarding the use of land and resources, as well as explore opportunities for revenue-sharing in consideration of Aboriginal rights and title interests and to help enable First Nations economic development.

Treaties

Signed treaties with six First Nations, including the first urban treaty with Tsawwassen First Nation and the first multi-nation treaty under the BC Treaty Commission process with the First Nations of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Education

2009: The first tuition payments were made to K-12 students living off-reserve enrolled in a band-operated school, and to cover students enrolled in independent certified on-reserve schools through the **Reciprocal Tuition Agreement** signed between the Province and the FNESC. In 2010-11, over $5 million in tuition payments were made.

2009: The Industry Training Authority (ITA) released the ***Aboriginal Trades and Apprenticeship Business Plan***. The Plan outlines how the ITA will address barriers to Aboriginal participation in trades training, and also identifies roles for supporting stakeholders within each action item.

2008: Through the **Canada – British Columbia Labour Market Agreement**, 4,302 Aboriginal individuals have participated in 24 Labour Market Agreement initiatives since 2008.

2008: Continued to partner with and support the FNESC in the ongoing implementation of English 12 First Peoples curriculum and provincial examination for that course. New courses English 10 and 11 First Peoples were fully implemented in September, 2010.

2008: The **BC Aboriginal Student Award** was created as part of the provincial government's strategy to improve Aboriginal access and achievement by reducing financial barriers to obtaining post-secondary education.

2007: Implemented **Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education Strategy** to enhance Aboriginal learner success. This initiative has included important foundational contributions such as:

- the development and implementation of Aboriginal Service Plans by 11 public post-secondary institutions in partnership with Aboriginal communities.
- allocated $10.5 million to create an endowment for the BC Aboriginal Student Award administered by the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society.
- funded research to provide evidence that supports Aboriginal learner transitions along the post-secondary education continuum.
- provided funding to build culturally welcoming gathering places at public post-secondary campuses.

2007: 192 on-going public post-secondary seats were created in 2007-08 (100) and 2008-09 (92) that specifically target Aboriginal learners in strategic program areas.

2006: Signed the Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement, and the BC First Nation Education Agreement. In 2007, the Province enacted the ***First Nations Education Act*** which formalized British Columbia's commitment to recognize First Nations' jurisdiction over the education of First Nations children in band schools of participating First Nations.

2004: Collaborated in the development and implementation of **Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements**, which are five-year commitments made by Aboriginal communities, school districts, and the Ministry of Education to work together to improve the success and educational experience of Aboriginal students in British Columbia.

Housing and Infrastructure

2011: As of March 31, 2011, 933 units of social housing have been transferred to the **Aboriginal Housing Management Association**.

2011: As of March 31, 2011, 157 First Nations had access to high-speed Internet services.

2008: Launched the **Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program**, providing $500,000 annually to Aboriginal non-profit organizations in nine communities across British Columbia to connect homeless people to housing, income assistance and support services in their communities within an Aboriginal context.

2008: **First Nations-led connectivity and capacity building initiative** (also known as Pathways to Technology) continues to be supported by the Province. Since 2008, $40.8 million has been provided for broadband connectivity and capacity building.

2008: The Province, Canada and the First Nations Leadership Council signed a historic **MOU**, which commits the parties to work together to improve housing for First Nations communities, individuals and families living on- and off-reserve.

2008: Undertook a **province-wide engagement process** involving over 250 people from Aboriginal organizations, First Nations and other groups to inform and guide future work related to off-reserve Aboriginal housing.

2007: Through the **Aboriginal Housing Initiative**, the Province committed $50.9 million to build 200 new units of affordable off-reserve Aboriginal housing to create safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing for youth, women, elders and those struggling with addictions. Since 2006, over 163 units of affordable housing have been created. This initiative is funded in part through the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust, which had been transferred from the Government of Canada to the Province.

2006: Completed on- and off-reserve housing needs and capacity assessment review. In addition to a literature and statistical review, Aboriginal communities and organizations around British Columbia provided information. This input is now guiding development of safe, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to British Columbia's Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

2004: The ***Provincial Homelessness Initiative*** was launched as a result of the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions. More than 4,000 new and upgraded supportive housing units and shelter beds have been created through the Provincial Homelessness Iwwwwwwnitiative, which will benefit many homeless Aboriginal people.

Health

2010: The **BC First Nations Health Directors Association** was incorporated as one of four governance components identified in the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan. A 13-member board of directors was appointed with representation from all five health regions.

2008: British Columbia was the first province in Canada to endorse **Jordan's Principle**, which ensures First Nations children receive the health and social services care they need. A joint process document for implementation between all parties will be finalized with First Nations input.

2007: The historic ***Tripartite First Nations Health Plan*** was signed between the Province, Canada, and the First Nations Leadership Council.

2007: The Province's first **Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor**, Dr. Evan Adams, was appointed to monitor and track progress and report on the health of Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia.

2007: The Provincial Committee on First Nations Health was established as part of a new governance structure created to ensure that First Nations have input into decisions affecting their health. The committee involves First Nations, Ministry of Health, health authorities and Health Canada in collaborative decision-making at the highest strategic health planning level.

Economic Opportunities

2009: The Province announced revenue-sharing with First Nations on new mining projects. British Columbia is the first province in Canada to share direct revenue generated from new mining projects throughout the life span of the mining operation.

2008: The **first incremental treaty agreement** (ITA) was signed between the Province and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. ITAs advance treaty-related benefits for First Nations, such as land and capacity building resources. Two ITAs have been signed.

2007: Negotiations began on Crown land agreements with First Nations to share revenue from major resort proposals.

2007: Contributed $30 million to the **Coast Opportunity Funds** directed toward economic development opportunities for First Nations businesses involved in activities including sustainable fisheries, forestry and tourism along the central and north coast.

2007: The **Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Blueprint Strategy**, representing a partnership initiative between the Province, Federal Government and AtBC is now fully implemented and provides a long-term plan for the sustainable growth and development of the province's Aboriginal tourism industry and is overseen by AtBC.

2007: **WorkBC** was launched as an innovative new labour market strategy to ensure success in meeting key economic priorities and advancing British Columbia's global economic competitiveness. One of the goals of WorkBC is to increase Aboriginal participation and labour market success.

2006: The historic **Coast Land Use Decisions** for the north Coast and central Coast protect vast areas of temperate rain forest, while providing a unique framework called ecosystem based management. These protected areas preserve some of the largest intact temperate rainforests in the world and serve to balance the needs of the environment with the need for sustainable jobs and a strong economic future for coastal communities. Over 20 First Nations have signed strategic land use planning agreements for the central and north Coast.

2006: First Nations mountain pine beetle initiative: $8.9 million transferred to the **First Nations Forestry Council** to address First Nations needs with respect to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Completed Phase I and II MPB impact assessment and response, and created communication tools for impacted First Nations communities.

The Province has entered into almost 200 forestry related agreements with First Nations including tenure opportunities and revenue sharing. Since 2002, more than $287 million in revenue-sharing and access to over 59.6 million cubic metres of timber has been provided to First Nations across the province. These agreements included a 4 million m3 agreement with the McLeod Lake Indian Band that has helped facilitate a business relationship leading to the opening of the MacKenzie Pulp Mill.

Ministry of
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